



Teamsters Local 117: 14675 Interurban Ave. S, Suite 307 • Tukwila, WA 98168 (206) 441-4860 • www.teamstertaxi.org

TAXI DRIVERS DELIVER PETITION TO CITY HALL

WWTCOA members demand that the City of Seattle take immediate action to enforce the law



Michael Judd (Orange - Wheelchair) addresses the media in front of City Hall.

Puget Sound taxicab operators, together with the **Teamsters**, converged on Seattle City Hall on June 17 to demand that the City take immediate action to enforce the laws that govern Seattle's personal transportation industry.

Taxicab operators circled the block in their cabs, blaring their horns in support, while a delegation of leaders from the **Western Washington Taxicab Operators Association (WWTCOA)** addressed the media.

"We demand that the City start enforcing existing laws," said Salah Mohamed, a driver with Yellow Cab and a member of the WWTCOA Leadership Council. "The City is not doing its job, and our families are suffering as a result."

After the press conference, taxicab operators delivered a petition with the signatures of over 500 taxicab operators to the Mayor's office calling on the City to act now on enforcement.

Under the law, only metered taxicab operators are permitted to use designated taxi stands or to stop and pick up passengers who hail them on the street. Limousine and other flat-rate drivers are not allowed to pick up drivers unless the rides are pre-

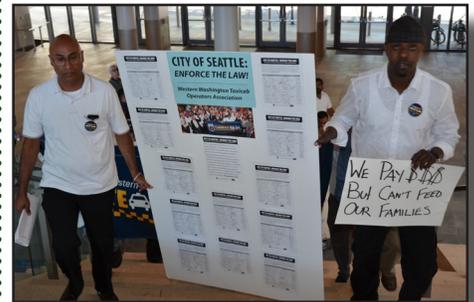
arranged and the rates are pre-negotiated between the driver and the passenger.

"The City needs to crack down on drivers who are breaking the law," Mohamed said. "Right now they are not fulfilling their responsibility to licensed taxi drivers and to the public at large."

The City has just three inspectors on the street who are authorized to issue tickets to violators in an industry with 1,400 drivers. Lack of enforcement allows flat-rate vehicles to illegally undercut the fares of licensed cabs.

Taxi drivers have testified multiple times at the City's **Committee on Taxis, For-Hires, and Limousines Regulations** meetings, calling for greater enforcement, but so far the City has not taken concrete steps to address the problem. ●

Photos from June 17 Press Conference



The Seattle Times

EDITORS CALL FOR RIDE-SHARE REGULATION

Taxi Actions Spark Editorial

Over the last week, taxi operators have been news in the news in a big way. They have gotten their message out on the editorial page of the Seattle Times and at press conference on the steps of City Hall.

Your participation in these actions has even led the editors of the Seattle Times to call for regulation of ride-share companies. In their June 20 editorial the paper writes:

RIDE-SHARING services like UBERx, Sidecar and Lyft are innovative and convenient, but the city of Seattle should consider the need for oversight, particularly considering the services compete with a highly regulated taxi industry.

Their early success has exposed a demand in Seattle for cheap, direct transportation. The problem is these cars don't follow the same licensing and insurance requirements that taxi and for-hire drivers are required to follow. That's technically illegal, but the city is not enforcing the rules.

So what happens if there is an incident in one of these cars? Who's liable? The city shouldn't wait to find out.

Western Washington Taxicab Operators Association Annual WWTCOA Meeting

Join fellow WWTCOA members for our annual meeting to discuss successes and challenges in our first year and to plan for the future. At the meeting, we will also be nominating members of the Leadership Council for the 2013-2014 calendar year. *Join us to build power in the taxi industry!*

Saturday, July 27 at 1PM

Teamsters - 14675 Interurban Ave. S., Tukwila

- *Nominate members for the 2013-2014 Leadership Council*
- *Plan and strategize for the coming year*
- *Updated your WWTCOA membership status*
- *Build power to transform the taxi industry!*



WWTCOA Membership Notes:

INSURANCE

The WWTCOA and the Teamsters are working hard to secure better liability rates for Association members.

If you are the first named insured on your insurance policy, please contact Dawn immediately at 206- 441-4860 ext. 1254.

We also need loss run data for ALL companies to establish the program. Call Dawn, stop by the Teamsters Building, or let your Leadership Council representative know if you have that information.

MEETINGS WITH KING COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The WWTCOA will be scheduling meetings with King County Council Members so that taxicab operators can educate them about the following issues at the County level:

- *Dual plates*
- *Dead heading*
- *Lack of enforcement*
- *No caps on licenses (esp towncars)*

If you are interested in helping to educate King County Council members, contact Dawn at 206- 441-4860 ext 1254.

TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMISSION - VACANCY

There is a vacancy on the **Seattle/King County Taxicab Advisory Commission**, and we are currently seeking volunteers to fill the position.

Contact Dawn at 206- 441-4860 ext 1254 if you are interested. You must be a lease-driver of a metered taxicab in order to apply.